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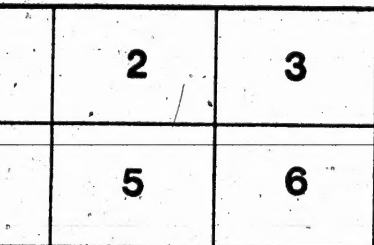
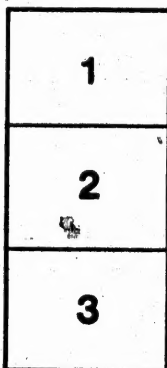
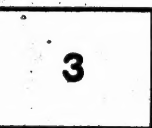
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P361.23
SECOND REPORT

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OF ✓

THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE

RELIEF OF THE POOR & DESTITUTE

OF THE

City of Toronto.

MARCH 20th, 1837.

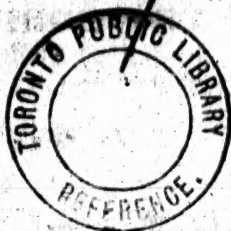
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PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC MEETING.

Pursuant to public notice there was a meeting held on Monday the 20th instant, in the City Hall, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee for the relief of the poor and destitute of the City of Toronto, and to add to the numbers of the Committee.

His Honour the Mayor, being called to the Chair, made a few appropriate remarks on the objects of the meeting, when the Secretary read the Report of the proceedings of the Committee to the present time ;—after which, it was

Moved by Doctor Baldwin, and seconded by Mr. Brent,

That the Report just read shall be adopted, and printed under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Leach, and seconded by Mr. Ewart,

That the Hon. Wm. H. Draper, Wm. B. Jarvis, Wm. W. Baldwin, James F. Smith, C. Stoddard, John Powell, Hugh Carfrae, Jno. Craig, P. Paterson, Henry Rowsell, J. W. Brent, Alexr. Hamilton, George Bilton, J. H. Price, Wm. Ketchum, E. McElderry, Thomas Storm, and William Musson, be added to the Committee for the relief of the poor and destitute of the City of Toronto.

The Sheriff was then called to the Chair, when the thanks of the meeting were returned to his Honour the Mayor, for his assistance on this as well as on other occasions, in behalf of the poor and destitute of the City of Toronto.

S. E. TAYLOR,

Secretary.

THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

BY [illegible]

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REPORT.

The Committee appointed at the former General Meeting of the Citizens, and to whom was entrusted the duty of providing for the wants of the poor, present this Report of their proceedings, both for the satisfaction of those who have subscribed and co-operated with them, as well as to induce those who have not, to unite in this work of benevolence. It may not be considered foreign to this design to give a brief detail of the reasons which dictated to your Committee the plan which they have pursued in supporting the poor and in establishing the House of Industry. Poverty appears in society in many shapes, but, although it proceeds from a multitude of causes, may, in general, be classified under three heads, viz:—that arising from intemperance,—from infirmity, or sickness,—and from the death of parents. The first division embraces, by far, the greater number of those thrown upon the charity of the public, and it appeared, therefore, to your Committee, as a matter of the first importance, that, in affording relief in those cases, a barrier should be placed in the way of a gratification of a desire for intoxicating liquors, by *the steady refusal of pecuniary relief*, and by bestowing other kinds of it only as a reward for labour performed—cases of sickness excepted. The utility of this course has been tried to much advantage, and the result has proved that many who apply for relief, apparently in a state of wretchedness and destitution, are not worthy of charitable aid; and that it is sought for merely as an auxiliary to their own labour, the fruit of which is spent in dissipation; or they are rather disposed to waste their time in idleness and beg, than to employ it usefully to obtain a livelihood. The deserving poor, on the contrary, willingly and cheerfully avail themselves of the opportunity afforded, to labour for the benefit of themselves and their families

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—they being always at liberty to accept of any other employment which they may find more for their comfort or advantage.

It has been found that families, notwithstanding their receiving relief from your funds, allow their children to continue the practice of street-begging, and, as necessity may frequently lead to this, from the largeness of the family, the Superintendent of the House of Industry was directed to open a Registry for the names of all poor persons wanting places, and of boys and girls of age to be apprenticed, and whose parents consented to their being apprenticed, in order that suitable places might be sought for them in the Country; and already several children have been rescued from abject wretchedness and danger, and have been comfortably settled in places remote from the temptations of the City. This course, your Committee have reason to believe, will, if steadily pursued, confer benefits upon the individual, the family, and the community at large. It is their opinion, indeed, that the consent of the parents to this arrangement might, with propriety, be made a pre-requisite to the family's receiving charitable aid. The abolition of street-begging, which such an arrangement may tend to effect, will, certainly, lead to the prevention of juvenile crime, as one of its most important results; and if the children are outcasts upon the world, by the death of parents or guardians, or are left without a protector by the sickness or imprisonment of the parent, exposed as a prey in the haunts of immorality, (and such instances have come under the observation of your Committee,) their case presents one of the strongest possible claims upon the sympathies of the benevolent; and, to such, the House of Industry should, at all times, be open as a House of Refuge, where they will be cared for, educated, and settled in life, and thus saved from the guilt, and wretchedness, and ruin, to which, without such aid, they would almost inevitably be doomed.

The cases of widows, also, who are left with small families, and destitute of any means of support, and,

particularly, when they happen to have no relations to care or provide for them, demand a special interest in the arrangements for the relief of the poor. From the severity of the afflictions of some of this class, who know not and feel not the sustaining power of religion, it is believed they have become an easy prey to the destroyer, but who, by the timely shelter and protection afforded by the House of Industry, might have been saved to themselves and to the world. But, besides the advantages in a moral sense arising from the mode of relieving the poor to which allusion has been made, the concentration of the funds of the benevolent, under the controul and distribution of a General Committee, of all persuasions, appointed by the Citizens, will secure the public from much imposition; and while a greater amount of real good will be done, than could possibly be effected by private charity, the expenses will be less, both on account of its judicious bestowment, as well as by the proceeds of the labour of the persons relieved. The results of the short trial which your Committee have made, gives encouragement to proceed; and with an anxiety to render the House of Industry more extensively useful, it has been deemed of importance to have the number of the Committee increased, both that the knowledge of its operations may be more generally diffused, and that those now in office may derive benefit and assistance from the judgment and services of those who may be appointed.

The following is an abstract of the operations of the Institution since its establishment in January last:

Number of out-door Pensioners relieved.

64 widows; 454 children; 18 deserted females;	
92 whose husbands are sick or in jail; and 81	
in distress for want of employment, &c.—in all	709
Discharged to this date,	108
Remaining on the books,	601

Number of Inmates in the House of Industry.
 10 widows; 2 whose husbands are in distress;
 6 old and infirm men; 8 orphans; and 17
 children, Total, 49

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures.

EXPENDITURES.			RECEIPTS.		
Bread account,	£77	4 3	Cash by subscript. £162	0	3
Butcher meat,	21	2 3	" pr City Council, 40	0	0
Provisions, Groceries 32	1	11	" pr Aldermen, ... 25	0	0
Furniture, outfit, and miscellaneous exp. 70	7	2½	" proceeds of labor of inmates, 8	13	7½
Firewood,	36	3 3	" in part of Legis. lative grant, ... 100	0	0
Cash p'd for rent, &c. on ac't poor persons, 6	2	1½			
Rent of house and sal. ary of Superinten't 25	0	0			
To balance remaining when debts are paid 67	12	10½			
	£335	13 10½		£335	13 10½

The proceeds of the labour of the inmates have, as yet, been very limited, arising partly from the difficulty of providing steady employment, and from the services required of many of the females in making the necessary clothing for the use of the House; but, it is to be hoped, that the next Report will present a more favourable result.

It is believed that, were the Citizens sufficiently alive to the importance of the Institution, constant and profitable employment might be found for a much greater number of the poor, than is, or could be received into the House at present occupied: such as in washing and dressing clothes,—sewing common work for families,—and doing various things for Tradesmen or Manufacturers, requiring little ingenuity, and only time and labor.

To accomplish fully, however, the designs of your Committee, a suitable building would be required, combining the conveniences of a House of Reformation,—of Refuge,—and Industry; and having 100 or 200 acres

of Land, and, if possible, a small Mill stream connected with it, situated at the distance of five or ten miles from the City; and, as it is believed that there are public lands unlocated or unoccupied within that distance, at the disposal of the Executive Government, no time should be lost by the new Committee or this Meeting in making the necessary application for a Lot. The subject was brought before Sir John Colborne, some years ago, and a hope was then entertained that 20 acres of ground would have been given from the Park at the North East end of the City; but from some cause the arrangements were never perfected, and the land has since been appropriated for other purposes.

Whenever such an Asylum can be provided for the destitute, the unprotected, and the youthful delinquent—the Citizens will be justified in putting a complete check to all street-begging, without causing distress to any of the deserving objects of charity, which, under present circumstances, might be the case in consequence of the inadequate means now provided for their relief;—and juvenile offenders, instead of being educated in crime, as they have hitherto been by intermingling with hardened criminals in our Common Jail, will be brought under the influence of discipline that will tend to reform their habits, and fit them for usefulness. The happy effects resulting from the establishment of Houses of Industry have been proved by the experience of the Citizens of Montreal and Quebec, and in various cities of the United States. In New York, on the 1st January, 1836, the House of Refuge contained 243 children and youths who were daily educated as well as trained to habits of industry; and during the previous year no less than 191 had been apprenticed to respectable employers; and the Report of that Institution contains “Numerous Letters from the former inmates of the House, shewing both by the testimony of the children and their employers, how great and lasting are its benefits, and how much these benefits are appreciated by the recipients of its bounty.” The utility of such Institutions has also

been acknowledged by the present Parliament, by the passing of an Act to authorise the establishment of Houses of Industry in the various Districts of the Province; not by endowments made from the public lands, but by a Tax to be levied for that purpose, under certain restrictions, from the inhabitants. But to these public testimonies to the usefulness of similar Institutions to that which has been lately established by your Committee in this City, it is with sincere pleasure that they have to record the generous and liberal assistance which has been afforded them by the City Council, in providing by a grant from its funds, for the costs of outfit and rent of the premises for the current year; and while they would tender their grateful acknowledgements for the readiness with which this provision was made, they would also express their gratitude to the Aldermen for the sum granted by them from their fees of office. Besides the aid thus received from public sources, your Committee dwell with peculiar pleasure upon the patronage and support given to the Institution by private individuals, many of whom have bestowed, besides their subscriptions, donations of Firewood, Provisions, Cloth, and wearing apparel, the value of which is duly appreciated.

The spirit of liberality which had thus been exhibited during the earlier stages of its existence, when its good effects were but partially felt or known, gave your Committee encouragement to go forward in the face of an increasing expenditure, under a conviction that when its beneficial operations became known, they could with confidence again appeal to the benevolent sympathies of the citizens. But the time necessarily required to collect subscriptions, and the limited number of your Committee upon whom the labour devolved, suggested the expedience of making an application to Parliament for a grant in aid of the funds, upon the ground that this City, from being the Capital of the Province received a very large share of the poor emigrants.—It is with much satisfaction that your Committee have been informed by

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His Worship the Mayor, who united in making the application, that an act has been passed in accordance with their petition granting the sum of £250, and that £100 of that sum has been already paid into the hands of the Treasurer by warrant of the Lieutenant Governor to the Mayor. The Dorcas Society under the efficient management of its President Mrs. Macaulay, has been an important auxiliary to your Committee in furnishing clothing for the poor; and they would recommend a further grant in aid of its funds.

In concluding this Report your Committee would express their earnest hope that no considerations will divide the friends of benevolence, in carrying out to their fullest extent the salutary principles upon which Houses of Reformation, of Refuge, and of Industry, have been established, so far as our imperfect knowledge of them, and our circumstances will admit and require. The rescuing of the poor from their bodily wretchedness is admitted by all to be an imperative duty; but it is equally a duty, and more important in the estimation of the philanthropist, to improve and elevate the human character. The Institutions referred to aim at this end, and the natural effect of that charity which ministers to the physical necessities of the poor, is to open the heart to instruction, and to give weight and power to the lessons of wisdom: at once relieving distress, and by regenerating the character securing the individual, in a great degree, against its recurrence. Such a cause, therefore, demands support; and your Committee commit it with confidence to the care and the benevolent protection of their fellow-citizens.

All which is respectfully submitted.

S. E. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

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 number of cases of the disease has
 increased in the last few years.
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